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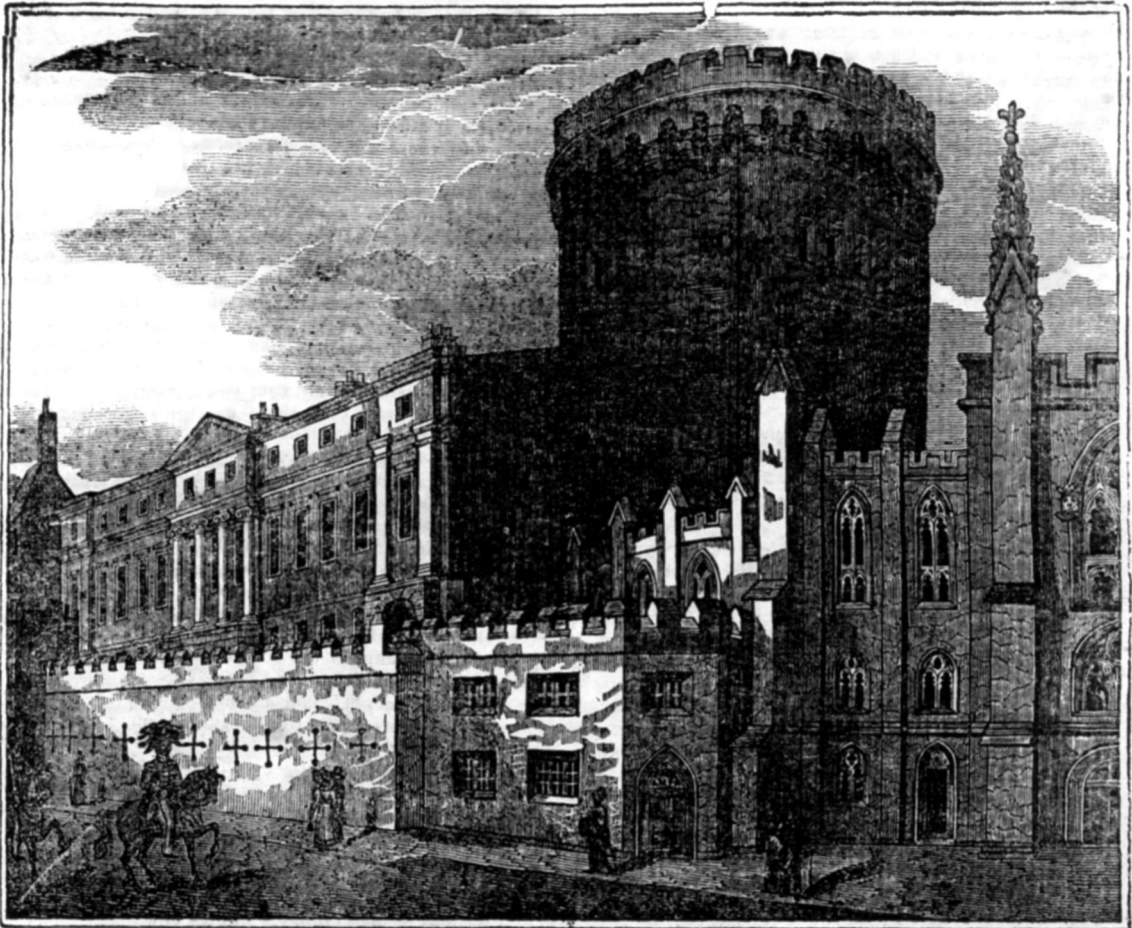
THE DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

No. 73. Vol. II.

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NOVEMBER 23, 1833.



BIRMINGHAM TOWER—CASTLE OF DUBLIN.

The above is a view of part of the south front of the Castle of Dublin, including what is called the **RECORD TOWER**, which is now occupied by the records of Ulster King of Arms, those of the late parliament of Ireland, and of Birmingham tower. The range of apartments to the west of the Tower, are those of the Lord Lieutenant, looking to the castle garden and St. Patrick's Hall; at the end of which is the Birmingham tower, rebuilt by Lord Harcourt, the under part of which is the castle kitchen; the second floor, the Round Room, commonly called the Board of Green Cloth; and the room above is that formerly appropriated to the custody of the records of Birmingham Tower, now divided into sleeping apartments.

The road along from the chapel to Ship-street gate, was formerly the castle ditch, which was formed here by the Poddle river, on which, in the olden time, stood two water-mills, turned by that stream, which now runs underneath an arched passage, and at about the middle of the lower castle yard divides into two branches, one of which runs at the back of the houses, on the west side of Palace-street, and the other along Palace-street, down into the Liffey, where the old Custom-house formerly stood.

The Record tower was the dungeon or prison of the

castle of Dublin, and was coeval with its foundation; the walls are of great thickness—it is built on a rock of black stone. It was formerly called the *Ward truer*, and in it, for upwards of five hundred years, were incarcerated all state prisoners. The last there confined, were Arthur O'Connor and his revolutionary companions, in the year 1791.

The history of the unfortunates imprisoned in this tower would supply materials for as many stories as are to be found in the *Arabian Nights*, and many of them romantic in the extreme, of which we may occasionally afford our readers the means of judging. The story of Red Hugh O'Donell, already published by Sir William Betham, and abridged by us, is not a bad specimen. These memoirs cannot fail to excite much interest, as they will tend, to a considerable extent, to illustrate our ancient manners and history.

The tower has in more recent times been appropriated and fitted up for the safe custody of the *records*, which have little to complain of at present, being well attended and kept in good condition; and from their testimony we shall be enabled at some future time to speak of those prisoners, who, unfortunately, during former periods, pined away many solitary and unhappy years in those narrow and wretched apartments.